

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Fremont Town Hall
295 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044
April 18, 2012
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gene Cordes called the April 18, 2012 meeting to order at 7:00 pm on the main floor of Fremont Town Hall.

Present were: Budget Committee Members Gene Cordes, Charles Kimball, Greg Fraize, Greta St. Germain, Joe Miccile, Patricia Wlasuk, and Recording Secretary Susan Perry.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee members introduced themselves and verified their contact information as listed on a typed sheet.

Mr. Cordes said he would draft a letter on the Committee's behalf to Pat Martel acknowledging her resignation with regrets.

Mr. Fraize needed to provide a letter of resignation to be able to post the vacancy. A sample notice of vacancies was distributed for the members to review. Two vacancies would be posted on the Web site, in the town newsletter, etc.

III. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE'S ROLE

There was an overview of Budget Committee's role, which was mainly to review proposed spending and make recommendations. It considers the numbers put forward in Warrants in the municipality and School District. It reviewed financial information but did not approve this. Now, the Committee can review non-monetary warrants and render recommendations.

IV. TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities were mentioned for budget training offered by Local Government Center (LGC), including one in Plaistow. LGC does trainings at little or no cost (the Town is a member). Mr. Miccille mentioned that the book put out by LGC is helpful too – it gives new changes in statutes, etc.

Ms. Carlson noted that LGC offers an annual local officials workshop (municipality budget law and generic topics) for free. Registration can be done at lgc.org.

V. REORGANIZATION: CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Charles Kimball made a motion to vote on Budget Committee Chair and Vice Chair. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0

Greta St. Germain made a motion to nominate Gene Cordes as Fremont Budget Committee Chair. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Greta St. Germain made a motion to nominate Charles Kimball as Vice Chair. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Ms. Carlson reviewed the process to fill committee vacancies. Interested candidates can write a letter or send email. They need to be Fremont residents and registered voters and have genuine interest and a willingness to learn. The Committee would review and talk to candidates (single agenda item public meeting). The Budget appoints members.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JANUARY 12, 2012

Ms. Carlson briefly explained to the new members how minutes were handled, noting that questions, etc. were done at public meetings. No votes could be done via email. Approved minutes are posted on the Web site.

After review of minutes, Greta St. Germain made a motion to accept two amendments. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Greg Fraize made a motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2012 as amended. Patricia Wlasuk seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Ms. St. Germain said for the record that she would draft a note to the attorney of LGC that Paul Sanderson said to her that as long as a Warrant Article/budget goes to the people for vote, unless the Town broke up compensation, it could be incorporated into the budget.

VII. TOWN'S YTD – 3/31/12-SPENDING REPORTS (HAND OUT)

The Town's YTD 3/31/12 Spending Report was reviewed. Mr. Cordes noted that the Budget Committee mostly focuses on expenses (reports made monthly).

Answering Mr. Miccile, Ms. Carlson said that most expenses that are required by State/Federal are for the School District and not as much for the Municipality (save for items such as FICA, Medicare, unemployment, workman's comp and retirement).

Ms. St. Germain noted that line item 4130900 EX Emerg Alloc Default (\$14,174.00) was the leftover and was new this year.

VIII. SCHOOL'S YTD 3/31/12 SPENDING REPORTS (HAND OUT)

Mr. Cordes noted that the Budget Committee's job is to review but not approve what is spent in the budget. He noted that the School District's fiscal year begins on July 1. Budget reports are made monthly. The budget that was voted in March 2012 will begin on July 2012.

Mr. Cordes suggested that backup information be provided to the new Budget Committee members so they could review how the July 1, 2012 budget was approved/didn't go to default budget. Ms. Carlson distributed budget books to them for review.

IX. SET MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR

The following dates were set for Budget Committee meetings (at 7 PM)

August 15
September 12
September 26

Then every Wednesday unless otherwise noted (with a special meeting before August 15 to review new candidate information if necessary).

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Cordes spoke about an issue brought up at the Deliberative Session (and phone calls he got) regarding the cost of administrative reorganization (a cost happening about 9 months ago in particular that was brought up was \$102,000) in the School District (legal settlement – salaries/benefits). He suggested that this issue be discussed publicly (what decisions were made, what the money was about) based on what could legally be communicated to the Budget Committee by the School District. Ms. Carlson explained Right to Know, saying that everything discussed had to be subject to public disclosure save a few items such as legal or employee matters. Mr. Fraize said that some minutes might have been sealed for a year but that by August the year might be up. Mr. Cordes noted that any member of the public could ask for the same information if the Budget Committee did not and that the Committee's mission was to oversee expenses/how money is exchanged.

Gene Cordes made a motion to request information (that could legally be given) to clarify the issue of a cost of \$102,000 (for administrative reorganization) in the School District budget. Charles Kimball seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:16 pm, Charles Kimball made a motion to adjourn. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Perry
Recording Secretary